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SOURCE

Newspapers and yearbooks as indicated.

SURVEY OF 1951 COTTON PRODUCTION IN COMMUNIST CHINA

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.⁷

This report supplements a previous report [] which reviewed the efforts of the government of the People's Republic of China to relieve China's cotton shortage. The previous report indicated that Communist China seeks self-sufficiency in cotton production.

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The present report attempts to survey the production results in the 24 provinces listed by the Hong Kong Hsin-tao Jih-pao as cotton producing.⁽¹⁾ However, this survey must be recognized as incomplete since the sources available (principally September and October 1951 newspapers, with a few references for November and December) do not give final figures. The information in this report is presented by regional areas, and provinces within areas, insofar as data are available. For some regions and provinces, over-all figures (usually estimates) were found; for others, only sectional data could be found. The sources used were largely Chinese mainland newspapers. However, for comparative data, certain references have been made to yearbooks.

Much of the available data was for purchases of ginned or unginned cotton during a given period, or by a given date, rather than for the actual cotton yield. Such data have been given in this report as an indication of production.

In its attempt to reach the 1951 national cotton production goal of approximately 19 million piculs (one picul equals 133.33 pounds)⁷, great stress was placed on increasing cotton acreage and the improvement of production methods.⁽²⁾

Northeast China

Li Shu-chen, Minister of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, has reported 1951 cotton production in the Northeast as 17.8 percent above prewar production.⁽³⁾ The 1939 production is given in the Manchukuo Yearbook as 68,840 metric tons.⁽⁴⁾

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1. Liaotung

Liaotung cotton yield was estimated at 118 catties [one catty equals 1.33 pounds] of unginned cotton per hectare more than 1950 production.(5)

2. Liaosi

A mid-October FBIS report puts the cotton harvest in I Hsien, Liaosi, at 2.33 million catties, an average of 1,431 catties of unginned cotton per hectare.(5a) Owing to paucity of reports for the Northeast the above FBIS report from Chin-chou is included though it could not be traced to any newspaper report.

3. Heilungkiang

Experimental cotton growing in 1951 on 2,320 mou [one mou equals 1/6 acre] scattered over 12 hsien in southern Heilungkiang, north of the 45th parallel, resulted in prospective yields of 50 to 80 catties of unginned cotton per mou. The authorities hope by this to develop economic strength in certain hsien which are now low in food-crop productivity.(7)

3. Jehol

No 1951 production figures for Jehol were found.

North China

North China cotton purchases for November exceeded the quota by 5.55 percent. Transport and distribution exceeded the target by 8.57 percent.(11)

1. Hopeh

Prospective yields of 200 catties of unginned cotton per mou are reported for Shih-chia-chuang, Han-tan, and Heng-shui areas.(8) Cotton-purchasing agencies prepared to purchase 35 million catties of unginned cotton in Ting-hsing Hsien.(6) Incomplete statistics indicate collection of 4,980,000 catties of unginned cotton by cooperatives in the Shih-chia-chuang area in the period 15-25 September.(9) In Wu-ch'iao Hsien, cooperative agents, finding that farmers were too busy to come to market, went from farm to farm buying an average of 4,000 catties of unginned cotton a day.(9)

Purchases of ginned cotton in Hopeh for September totaled 28,881,000 catties. From June through September, Hopeh cotton raisers contracted with cooperatives to sell or deposit 175,700,000 catties of ginned cotton.(10) Hopeh cotton purchases in November exceeded quotas by 10.64 percent.(38)

2. Pingyuan

During the first 10 days of September the China Cotton Yarn and Cloth Company bought 380,000 catties of ginned cotton in Pingyuan.(7)

3. Shansi

In South Shansi prospective yields of 250-300 catties of unginned cotton for irrigated land and 150 catties per mou for nonirrigated land were reported. The mutual aid team, led by the now nationally famous model cotton farmer Ch'iu Yao-li, reported 540 catties of unginned cotton per mou on its 48-mou project. Ch'u Yao-li reported an average of 790 catties per mou on his private 20-mou plot with a high of 830 catties per mou on 2 mou.(12)

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The China Cotton Yarn and Cloth Company has increased its buying stations in Shansi from two in 1950 to 13 in 1951 and its purchasing staff from 15 to 136 persons. Agents purchased 370,000 catties of ginned cotton during the first 10 days of September.(7) November cotton purchases exceeded targets by 20.46 percent.(11)

Northwest China

Production in Northwest China for 1951 was estimated at double that of 1950 with only a 10 percent increase in the planted area.(13)

1. Shensi

Production for Shensi Province was estimated at 250 catties of unginned cotton per mou for irrigated land and 120 catties for nonirrigated land.(8) During 9-21 September, 50,000 mutual aid production teams in 21 hsien of the Kuan-chung area of Shensi sold to or deposited 4 million catties of ginned cotton with government agencies.(14) Purchases of new cotton during the first half of September in Wei-nan Special Administrative District, Shensi, amounted to 530,000 catties. This was 80 percent of the entire month's quota.(15)

By 30 September 1951, 90,356 piculs of ginned cotton had been purchased in Shensi; 30,000 piculs of this had already been distributed to consumers.(16)

2. Sinkiang

People's Liberation Army troops planted cotton on 20,000 mou of land in northern Sinkiang in 1951. The average yield per mou was 40-50 shih chin of ginned cotton for a total yield of 800,000 to one million shih chin. This is a new cotton-producing area. The seed planted was Soviet C3173, which had proved to be satisfactory in the 1950 tests.(17) A crop of 1,800,000 catties of ginned cotton was the estimated production from T'u-erh-fan Hsien.(18)

No data have been found for 1951 cotton production in Kansu or Ningsia provinces.

Central and South China

According to preliminary estimates made by the China Cotton Yarn and Cloth Company, the 1951 cotton crop in Central and South China was expected to reach 200 percent of the 1950 production.(20) The 1950 production, according to the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao, was 2,615,400 piculs.(19) Cotton purchases during September in the whole region amounted to 190,000 piculs which was 155.37 percent of the target.(20)

By 30 November, cotton purchases in Central and South China had reached 93 percent of the September to December target; 148,700 piculs over the target for that area were shipped to East China and 12,300 piculs over the target to the Southwest.(21)

1. Honan

The 1951 cotton-production goal of the Honan Provincial Government was 1,458,000 shih piculs [one shih picul equals 110.23 pounds] from an acreage of 5.4 million shih mou [one shih mou equals 0.1647 acre].(22) Actual planting was reported at 6.64 million mou. The yield was expected to exceed that of 1950.(23) In November, 400,000 to 500,000 catties of [unginned?] cotton came into the markets daily.(24)

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A bumper crop of 300 catties of unginned cotton per mou was harvested in Shan-chou Special Administrative District. This was 300 percent of the 1950 production. Other areas in Honan were reported as meeting their goals.(8, 25) In Ling-pao Hsien yields of 40 catties of ginned cotton per mou and in Shan Hsien 55 catties of ginned cotton per mou were reported. One experimental project reported 110 catties of ginned cotton per mou.(25) The Nan-Yang Hsien experimental farm reported the yield of 1,000 catties per mou of unginned cotton.(26)

2. Hupeh

Preliminary estimates indicated a big increase in the 1951 cotton crop in Hupeh.(8)

The Hsi-hsiu Hsien People's Government called a meeting of peasant representatives of Ho-tung, Nan-Yueh, and Wang-ch'eng ts'un at which a pledge was made to sell to or deposit with the government 170,000 catties of unginned cotton.

The representatives of Huang-lien, Wu-chan, and Ch'i-p'u ts'un pledged a total of 236,000 catties of ginned cotton.(27)

The 1951 cotton acreage in Hupeh was 7,740,000 mou and the yield was 2 million piculs of ginned cotton. This exceeds any year's production since 1931.(23)

3. Hunan

Cotton acreage in Hunan in 1951, as officially reported at the Central and South China Military and Administrative Committee session in late November, was 2,440,000 mou and the estimated yield was 58 million catties of ginned cotton.(23) The average yield per mou was 30 to 40 catties of ginned cotton. In Li Hsien, Lin-li Hsien, and An-hsiang Hsien record yields of 70 to 80 and even 120 catties of ginned cotton per mou were reported. The provincial yield was 168 percent over 1950.(23a)

4. Kiangsi

No general production data were found for Kiangsi. However, at the meeting of the Central and South China Administrative Committee in November, Chairman Shao Wu-p'ing of Kiangsi reported that spring floods and cold weather, combined with a late summer drought of 2 months duration, had affected a total of 16 million mou and had resulted in a 25 percent reduction in the yield of local type cotton. Improved cotton on 130,000 mou suffered only slight damage.(23)

Model farmer Sheng Ch'ing-Yuan in Ping-tzu Hsien raised 500 catties of unginned cotton per mou on an 11-mou plot. His mutual aid team produced 200-300 catties per mou.(28)

5. Kwangtung and Kwangsi

No figures were found for 1951 cotton production in Kwangtung and Kwangsi.

East China

Cotton production for 1951 in East China was reported by the vice-chairman of the East China Military and Administrative Committee at the committee's fourth plenary session on 19 November 1951 as 4,930,000 piculs of ginned cotton. According to the vice-chairman, this was an increase of 1,630,000 piculs over 1950

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production and 136.7 percent of the best prewar production.(29) However, it is noted that the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao, 27 October 1950, reported 1950 production for East China as 3,800,000 piculs (19) which is only 1,130,000 less than the figure given above for 1951.

1. Shantung

Shantung cotton acreage for 1951 is estimated at 96.22 percent of prewar acreage and the yield at 97.34 percent of the prewar.(30) According to the 1937 Chinese Yearbook, the acreage in 1936 was 3,239,000 shih mou and the production 2,554,000 shih piculs.(31) Mid-September estimates placed production up to that date, in two of the principal cotton-growing hsien, Wu-ch'iao and Te-chou, at 17 million and 20 million catties of unginned cotton respectively.(42, 33) Purchases of ginned cotton over the province during September 1-4 were reported at 980,000 catties.(32)

2. Kiangsu

A report in mid-September from Yang-chou in North Kiangsu reveals that 4,800,000 shih mou were planted in cotton in 1951 in that area, an increase of 1,300,000 shih mou over 1950. Production was over 1 million piculs of ginned cotton, i.e., 400,000 over 1950.(34)

The planned production of 5 million catties of unginned cotton was surpassed by 480,000 catties at the end of September in T'ai-ts'an Hsien, South Kiangsu.(35)

Hsi-lai Ch'u in North Kiangsu, with a cotton acreage of 51,600 mou, was expected to yield 2 million catties of ginned cotton, an average of approximately 40 catties per mou.(36) In 1951, the production estimate for South Kiangsu as a whole was 800,000 piculs of unginned cotton.(37) Hsiao Hsien in North Kiangsu was estimated to produce 12 million catties of unginned cotton.(37a)

The actual cotton acreage in North Kiangsu for 1951 was 4,849,682 mou, which was 349,682 mou more than the original plan called for, and 40.85 percent over 1950 acreage.(38)

3. Anhwei

The North Anhwei yield was better than in 1950, but few figures are available. Three cotton-producing areas in one hsien in North Anhwei reported production of 1,250,000 catties of ginned cotton.(39)

4. Chekiang

Chekiang production was reported 10 percent over 1950. The average production per mou was 40-50 catties of ginned cotton. The highest reported yield was 100 catties of ginned cotton per mou in Yao Hsien. In Ning-po Special Administrative District 159 purchasing stations were set up. On 6 September 1951, purchases of 14,000 catties of ginned cotton in one village in a single day, were reported. The average yield per mou for the district was reported at 40-50 catties of ginned cotton.(40)

5. Fukien

No cotton reports were found for Fukien.

Southwest China

Szechwan, Kweichow, and Yunnan provinces in the Southwest produce cotton. However, the only data available on 1951 cotton production in these provinces is a report of 100,000 catties produced in Pu-erh Special Administrative District

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of Yunnan, (21) and an FBIS report, 14 November 1951, datelined Chungking, 13 November 1951, stating that 250,000 catties of cotton were produced in the Sui-ning area of North Szechwan. (42) Scanning of a large number of Chinese newspapers failed to reveal this item.

A general statement that cotton yields in the Southwest have now surpassed the prewar yields was made by Vice-Chairman Teng Hsiao-ping of the Southwest China Military and Administrative Committee at its third plenary session in November. (41)

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